

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00028 061130Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 SSM-03 /085 W  
-----083750 061156Z /21/50

R 051516Z JAN 78  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9960  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0028

CORRECTED COPY TO SHOW BEIRUT AS INFO ADDEE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS, EG, US  
SUBJECT: THE WEST BANK MOOD - ANXIETY AND GLOOM

1. RECENT EVENTS HAVE CREATED CONFUSION, ANXIETY AND GLOOM AMONG EAST JERUSALEMITES/WEST BANKERS. LOCAL PALESTINIANS ARE CRITICAL OF ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN, AND US POLICIES AND EVEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASWAN STATEMENT HAS NOT IMPROVED THE POLITICAL CLIMATE.

2. ALL EAST JERUSALEM DAILIES JANUARY 5 ARE CRITICAL. BOTH "ASH-SHA'AB" AND "AL FAJR" CARRY HEADLINES THAT THE ASWAN TALKS IGNORED THE BASIC ISSUE (I.E. AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE). "AL QUDS" EDITORIALIZES THAT THE US DISAGREES WITH THE SAUDI POSITION WHICH FAVORS TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND SELF  
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00028 061130Z

DETERMINATION. AS LONG AS SAUDIS ARE NOT ON BOARD, THERE NO HOPE OF WINNING MODERATE ARAB SUPPORT. "AL QUDS" HEADLINES SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT A PEACE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE CLOSE AT HAND IF PALESTINIANS WERE TO CHOOSE KING HUSSEIN AS THEIR LEADER.

3. A NUMBER OF THINGS HAVE COMBINED TO DISPEL THE

EUPHORIA WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO THE ISMAILIA SUMMIT. FIRST, THERE WERE LEAKS AS TO BEGIN'S PROPOSALS, THEN CAME THE PUBLIC STAND-OFF AT ISMAILIA. NEXT WAS THE TEST OF BEGIN'S 26 POINTS AND HIS DEFENSE OF THEM. ON TOP OF THIS CAME THE PRESIDENT'S DECEMBER 28 TV INTERVIEW WHICH, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, HAD STRONG REVERBERATIONS HERE. WEST BANKERS INTERPRETED PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS FULL SUPPORT FOR BEGIN'S PLAN DESPITE SECRETARY VANCE'S CLARIFICATION THAT THIS NOT THE CASE. ARAFAT'S SHARP REACTION TO BRZEZINSKI'S COMMENTS HAS ALSO HAD LOCAL IMPACT.

4. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, PART OF WEST BANKERS ANXIETY STEMS FROM FACT LARGE NUMBER OF WORLD LEADERS ARE PRONOUNCING THEMSELVES ON THE PALESTINIAN'S FUTURE WHILE THEY HAVE NO SAY. EARLIER ENTHUSIASM FOR SADAT'S INITIATIVE HAS BEGUN TO FADE AS WEST BANKERS FEAR THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT YIELD ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND SADAT ULTIMATELY WILL BE FORCED TO SIGN SEPARATE AGREEMENT. IF, CONTRARY TO PRESENT EXPECTATIONS, SADAT ACHIEVES WITHDRAWAL AND SELF DETERMINATION, HE WILL BE HAILED AS A HERO. AS OF NOW, DOUBTS ARE RISING. EVEN MAYOR QAWASIMA OF HEBRON, WHO EARLIER WAS PRIVATELY FAVORABLE TO SADAT'S INITIATIVE, RECENTLY TOLD BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF SADAT HAD NEVER COME TO JERUSALEM.

5. RECENT SHOOTING OF THREE WEST BANKERS, FOR WHICH  
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PAGE 03 JERUSA 00028 061130Z

PLO HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY, HAS INCREASED FEARS AND INHIBITED EXPRESSION OF MODERATE OPINION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** BANKS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978JERUSA00028  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, IS, EG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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